

SAFETY ALERT



HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES FORCES - IRAQ
BAGHDAD, IRAQ
APO AE 09342-1400

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MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

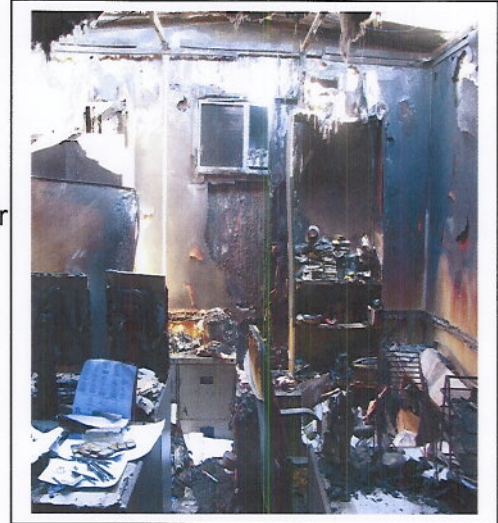
SUBJECT: CHU Fluorescent Light Fixture Fires

1. There have been numerous recent incidents involving fluorescent light fixture fires. These incidents are the result of fluorescent light fixtures failing and igniting nearby combustible materials. Fluorescent Lights are the Number ONE cause of fires in Iraq. Turn your lights OFF when not in use.

2. Post-fire investigation determined fires likely began when light fixture ballasts failed. Because a failing ballast can get extremely hot, it can become a fire hazard. By leaving burned - out lamps in the fixture, using the wrong size lamps, incorrect wiring, incorrect line voltage, operation at temperatures below or above the rated limits, power surges, and even the age can all cause a ballast to fail. A ballast can become overheated, needlessly, when left on for an extended period of time in an empty CHU.

3. To help prevent CHU fires, consider these helpful Safety tips:

- Call the Mayor Cell if you have flickering lights.
- Keep lamps, light fixtures, and light bulbs away from anything that can burn.
- Never place clothing over a lamp or a cloth over a light bulb.
- Place lamps away from things that might fall against them.
- Buy only appliances that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture.



4. Commanders and leaders at all levels must focus on established fire and electrical safety procedures and practices and employ the operational and composite risk management process to reduce all structure fires. Accident prevention requires untiring efforts of every leader at every level.

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS

ROBERT W. CONE
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy Commanding General -
Operations

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